The dispensary at Colachel was established long ago and the town had developed to such an extent that the dispensary could no longer satisfy the needs of the town and of the neighbouring villages. The dispensary should therefore be made into a hospital providing suitable buildings for in-patients. In reply to a representation at the sixteenth session of the Assembly on the subject, the Dewan replied that the Darbar Physician and the Chief Engineer were in correspondence in the matter; but nothing was done till now. The matter being urgent, the Member requested that a hospital should be established without delay. A doctor with L. M. S. qualification should be posted there and more medicines should be issued for the use of the hospital.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Muhammad Khan, in the matter of the proposed railway which runs through Colachel town, since you and your friends object to the line passing through the town, I will ask the Railway Adviser, Mr. Marini, to receive a deputation from you and your townsmen and you can place your views before him.

2. As regards the road from Colachel to Tengapattanam, I shall have the need for that road examined by the Land Revenue Commissioner as well as by the Chief Engineer.

3. On the transfer of a Munsiff's court from Padmanabhapuram to Colachel, the High Court were consulted and they are not in favour of the proposal.

4. Regarding the raising of the local dispensary into a hospital, the matter was brought up before the twentieth session of the Assembly and you will remember that the then President said that it was not necessary. If you see the need for it, I shall ask the Inspecting Medical Officer to report upon the matter.

99. Needs of the Vilavankod taluk.

MR. R. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Member, Vilavankod taluk*) represented that the following were the urgent needs of the Vilavankod taluk :—

(i) A bridge should be constructed across the Panankara canal on the Arumana-Attur road. Even during dry season the stream was three feet deep, while in winter floods made it unfordable for days together. The dispensary, the markets, the school, etc., were, in the absence of a bridge, inaccessible.

(ii) The Martandam-Panachamud trace should be converted into a cart road. The trace was fit for cart traffic in most places but required extensive improvements only for about a furlong in the Edakod *ela*. The maintenance grant now given appeared to be seldom spent. If that was enhanced, the improvements required could be effected to the great convenience of the people, particularly of those who resorted to the markets at Martandam and Panachamud.

(iii) The trace to Manchalumudu market branching off from the Kuzhittura-Alanchola road should also be rendered fit for cart traffic.

(iv) The level of the lane leading to the Parthivapuram temple from the Mankattukadavu in Munchira should be raised to the height of the Pulakada-Kaliakkavila road and the lane made fit for cart traffic. The lane was one mile long and 20 ft. broad and about 18 ft. below the level of the surrounding lands so that it was under water after a few rains and there was danger of its becoming part of the river under a heavy flood.

(v) The police jurisdiction of the *pakuthies* of Arumana and Kaliyal East, and certainly of Kaliyal West, should be transferred from the Tiruvattar to the Kuzhittura police station.

(vi) The civil jurisdiction over the *pakuthies* of Vilavankod should be raised as proposed by Mr. P. M. Raman Pillai, Member for the Municipal Council, Kuzhittura.

(vii) The Magistrate's and Munsiff's courts at Kuzhittura should be transferred elsewhere to a more suitable site less liable to floods. They could be removed

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

to the taluk office compound or to Kazhuvantitta. A substantial sum had been sanctioned for the construction of the taluk cutcherry. The Vernacular High School situated near the main road could be used as the Munsiff's court and the Vilavankod *pakuthi* cutcherry near by could be rebuilt to accommodate the Magistrate's court. The *pakuthi* cutcherry could be shifted to the present Section Office and the latter to the camp-shed. The present Munsiff's court could be given for the use of the Vernacular School, and the Magistrate's court building could with advantage be restored to its old use as *satram*. The above or other suitable arrangements should be made by the Government for accommodating the public institutions at Kuzhittura more conveniently.

The tax on lands in the Vilavankod taluk the crops on which were damaged by the floods of Tulam 1101 should be remitted. Floods were frequent and did considerable damage to buildings and crops. The floods in November last were heavy. The orders issued by the authorities in regard to the remission of tax were so conflicting that they denoted indecision on the part of the Government. Thr damage caused by the floods of Tulam 1101 in the fields adjoining the river was five times as great as that caused by the floods of 1099, and attempts to grow another crop for Kumbham also failed, with the result that the ryots had not got even the necessary seeds for the next cultivation. Orders should be passed definitely remitting the tax for the Kumbham crop of 1101.

A grant-in-aid *vishavaidyasala* should be established near Karinkal and Puttetti for the benefit of the people living in the *pakuthies* of Nattalam, Kiliyur, Midalam, Kizhkulam, etc., where snake bites exceeded one thousand a year.

A midwife should be appointed to the Arumana dispensary which, judged by the number of patients, ranked third in the State. The number of delivery cases was on the increase and more accommodation for in-patients would make the dispensary increasingly useful.

A dispensary should be opened at Tengapattanam. The inadequacy of medical relief in the Vilavankod taluk had heen represented on several occasions in the past, and this was now most keenly felt in the southern *pakuthies*, the nearest hospital being about ten miles away. Epidemics were of common occurrence and the activities of the Sanitary Department seemed to be confined to the occasional visits of the vaccinators. The Mission Hospital at Kuzhittura did not satisfy all requirements, as poor patients were unable to pay and the Member quoted an instance where the authorities discriminated against a poor pregnant woman.

The Member referred to the need for a Government hospital and a First Class Magistrate at Kuzhittura, but added that he did not propose to speak at length on those two subjects as Mr. P. M. Raman Pillai, Member for the Kuzhittura Municipal Council, proposed to deal with the question elaborately.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Narayana Pillai, as regards your first point, the Chief Engineer has reported that he considers that a bridge across Panankara canal desirable and accordingly the Government have asked him to submit an estimate.

2. For the conversion of the Martandam-Panachamud trace into a cart road, the Chief Engineer has asked the Divisional Officer to prepare an estimate.

3. As regards the road to the Manchalamud market, apparently you want it to be extended by five furlongs to meet the Arumanai-Panachamud trace at its 4th mile. It is seen that the first 6,100 ft. is already fit for cart traffic. The Divisional Officer has been asked to prepare and submit an estimate.

4. Then, we come to the raising of the level of the lane leading to Parthivapuram temple from Mankattukadavu in Munchira. The Chief Engineer says it is enough if we have a flood bank and the lane is raised for a small distance to prevent submergence. An estimate has been called for. At the same time, I cannot promise you that these works will be carried out immediately, because the need for roads in South Travancore cannot be said to be so great as in North Travancore. So your place will have to take its turn.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

5. Regarding the damage caused by the floods, the Government are awaiting a report on the subject from the revenue authorities.

6. Your representation with regard to police matters will receive due consideration.

7. The Director of Ayurveda is going to hold a local enquiry into the necessity for opening a *vishavaidasala* at Karinkal. Government have to await the result of his investigation.

8. The Administrative Board, Medical Services, has said that steps will be taken to provide a midwife for the Arumana dispensary as soon as possible.

9. The other points will all be borne in mind for consideration.

100. Needs of the Kuzhittura town.

MR. P. M. RAMAN PILLAI (*Member, Municipal Council, Kuzhittura*) said that the need for shifting the Munsiff's and Magistrate's courts from the present location was admitted on all hands. Had the recent floods risen by two feet more, the court-houses would have been under water and all the records damaged. The Member, speaking on behalf of the Municipality which brought Kuzhittura into prominence as a town, disagreed with the views expressed by Mr. R. Narayana Pillai, Member for Vilavankod taluk, regarding the new site. The courts should be located within the town itself and not transferred to arid and out of the way tracts. The Kuzhittura T. B. recently reduced to the second class and now costing Rs. 192 per annum for its upkeep could, with the addition of a few out-houses, be utilised for holding both the courts and the camp-shed could serve the purposes of the T. B. as well. In the alternative, a suitable site could be acquired at a moderate price on the southern side of the main road for putting up the necessary buildings.

The *satram* should be restored to its old use which it was fulfilling till 1097. The Kaliyal market necessitated the maintenance of a *satram*. The Section Office building, converted into a *satram*, would not be satisfactory as there was no adequate water supply near by.

Though the Kuzhittura Municipality were spending Rs. 7,000 out of an annual income of Rs. 7,500, it was not possible to undertake any public works as all the money was required for sanitation. A portion of the receipts derived by the Government from the toll-gate should be given to the Municipality which had contributed to a share of the traffic connected with the Municipal markets, and which was being obliged to incur expenditure on sanitation connected with the hospital, offices and markets. The outlay on maintenance of the road was less than the toll-gate receipts, less even than the receipts from one motor company like the Pioneer Bus Service which was paying Rs. 40 daily. The financial condition of the Municipality and the hardship that would be entailed by the imposition of another toll on the same road should be sympathetically considered and the Municipality given a share of the toll-gate receipts.

The Member then narrated the history of the agitation for the establishment of a Government hospital in the Vilavankod taluk. The subject was brought forward at the first session and repeated at eleven succeeding sessions. The existence of the Mission Hospital at Martandam was always urged as an obstacle. At one time, there was a proposal to remove the Parassala Government hospital to Kuzhittura, which would have made the hospitals on the M. S. Road, *viz.*, at Neyyattinkara, Kuzhittura, Tuckalai and Nagercoil almost equidistant and remedied the inadequacy of medical relief in an entire taluk. At the instance of a Christian Darbar Physician and owing to the influence of the Mission, the idea was mysteriously dropped ; and the construction of new buildings at Parassala now precluded the possibility of its revival. The Mission was asked to engage the services of a qualified medical officer and latterly an agreement, the terms of which were not known, had been entered into.

The people were anxious to have a Government hospital for a variety of reasons. In a Mission hospital, the poor people could not possibly receive equal treatment irrespective of considerations of caste, creed and religion. The belief was there, whatever the fact might be. A properly qualified doctor well acquainted with all the latest developments in the theory and practice of medicine and surgery

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly